CIA/OGCR/PN 61.2684/75 ITEM 009 UNCLASSIFIED--PRC CITY BRIEF AN-SHAN

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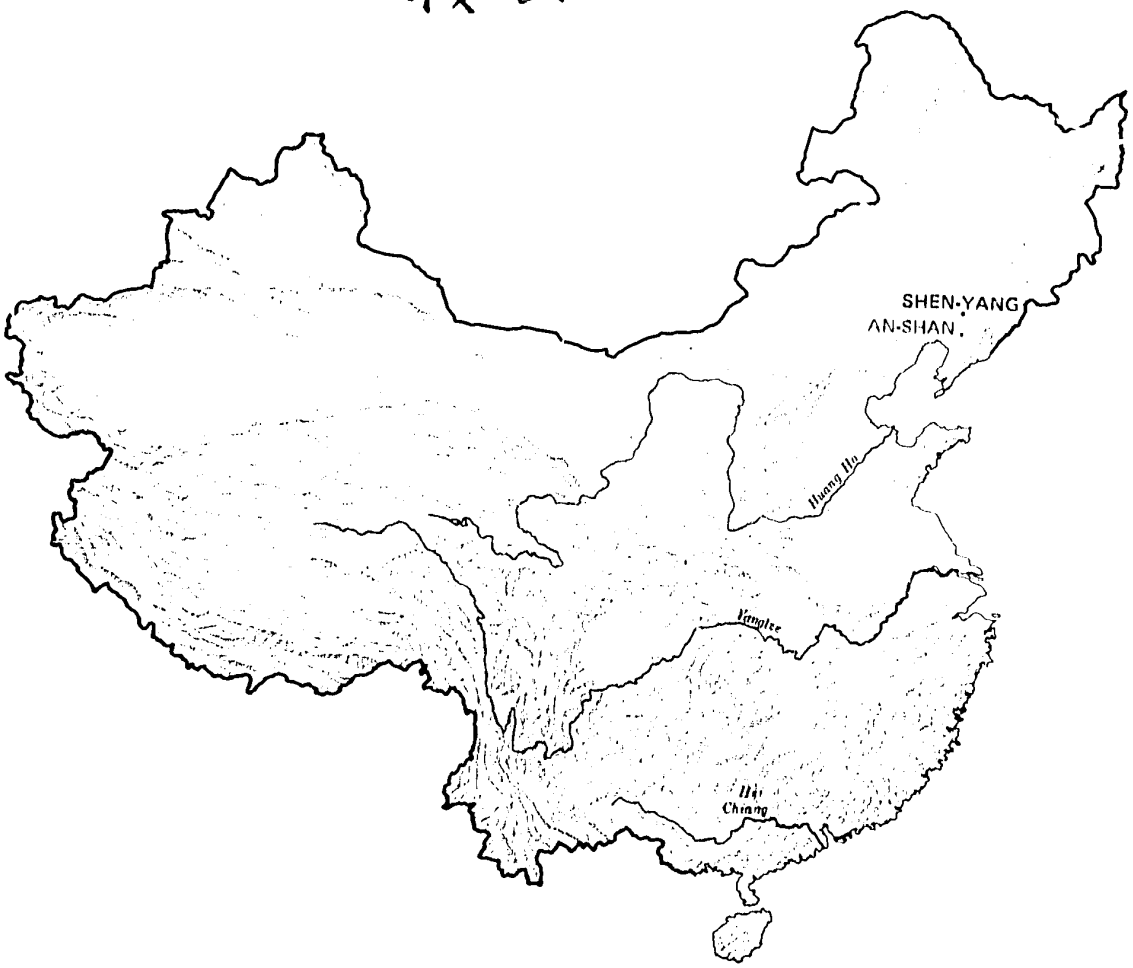
ITEM 009

PRC CITY BRIEF

An-shan 鞍山



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PN 61.2684/75
July 1975

AN-SHAN

(pronounced ahn shahn)

Chinese romanized system of spelling:	Anshan			
Meaning in Chinese:	saddle-shaped mountain			
Location:	41°07'N 122°57'E (approx. latitude of Youngstown, Ohio, and Cheyenne, Wyoming)			
Elevation:	100 feet above sea level			
Population:	850,000			
Climate:	Jan	April	July	Oct
Mean daily maximum temperature (°F)	20	60	87	62
Mean daily minimum temperature (°F)	-2	36	69	39
Mean number of days with precipitation	4	6	15	7
Mean monthly precipitation (inches)	.2	1.2	7	1.7

AN-SHAN

General

An-shan, the steel city of China, is located in Liaoning Province about 55 miles southwest of Shen-yang (Mukden) in a densely populated agricultural-industrial area rich in deposits of iron and coal. The city boasts the largest iron and steel complex in China (including iron mines and ore-processing plants) and produces about one-fourth of the nation's steel. The Chinese are especially proud of An-shan because of its important role in providing most of the steel used in the initial industrial expansion of China during the 1950s.

Although An-shan is very much of a "company town" because of the dominance of the iron and steel complex, the general plan of the city is not unattractive with a grid pattern of broad and tree-lined streets, occasional traffic circles, and several radial avenues. The city is aligned north-south and bisected by the main railroad line linking Shen-yang in the north with the port of Lu-ta (Ta-lien) to the south. The iron and steel plant, sprawling over an area of about 5 square miles, monopolizes the skyline of the northwestern part of the city with its belching smoke stacks, blast furnaces, and cooling towers. During the past 2 decades the city has expanded considerably, particularly to the north and east of the railroad, much of the growth consisting of workers housing and service establishments. Southeast and south of the city are low hills, some of which are scarred by the iron mines that supply the blast furnaces with ore. An-shan has no regularly scheduled air service, but flights between Shen-yang -- a short trip away by rail or road -- and other parts of the country are frequent.

Late spring or early fall are climatically the best times of the year to visit An-shan. Temperature contrasts between summer and winter are very sharp, similar to those of Minnesota. Average July temperatures are high with 90° F reading not uncommon. Rain is frequent and often heavy during July and August. Winter temperatures are severe (as low as -25°F) and below-zero readings are normal; daytime temperatures only occasionally rise as high as the freezing mark.

History

Iron and steel are part and parcel of the life and the history of An-shan. Prehistoric evidence exists of surface scratching for ore, but organized mining and smelting of iron did not begin until about 100 B.C., during the early Han Dynasty. Activity continued, heightened during the 10th and 11th centuries A.D., gradually tapered off, and finally was curtailed by the superstitious Manchu emperors (Ch'ing Dynasty A.D. 1644-1911) who feared that their ancestral tombs located about 10 miles to the northeast of An-shan would be disturbed by the mining.

The modern development of An-shan from a small agricultural village in the midst of kaoliang fields into a major industrial city began with the rediscovery of the iron ore deposits by the Japanese in the early 1900s. The An-shan Iron Works, built by the South Manchurian Railway Company on the site of the present iron and steel plant, was later transferred to the management of the Showa Steel Works Ltd., which added the first open-hearth furnaces and began producing steel in 1935. The Japanese devised the orderly street pattern of the city and built housing and service facilities for the workers along with some subsidiary industry.

An-shan was occupied in 1945 by the Soviet Army, which immediately began the systematic dismantling and removal of power-generating and transforming equipment, electric motors, the newest and best machine tools, experimental plants, laboratories, and hospitals. In the process the buildings were severely damaged. Before the Soviets departed, they also permitted and encouraged the local residents to pillage for items of salable value and for wood for use as fuel against the bitter Manchurian winter. Most looters were Chinese who had migrated to An-shan in large numbers during the 1930s to work in the mines and mills. Additional destruction resulted during the 3 years (1946-48) of civil war -- the city changed hands 11 times -- until Chinese Communist forces finally gained permanent control in 1948.

Post-1949 Developments

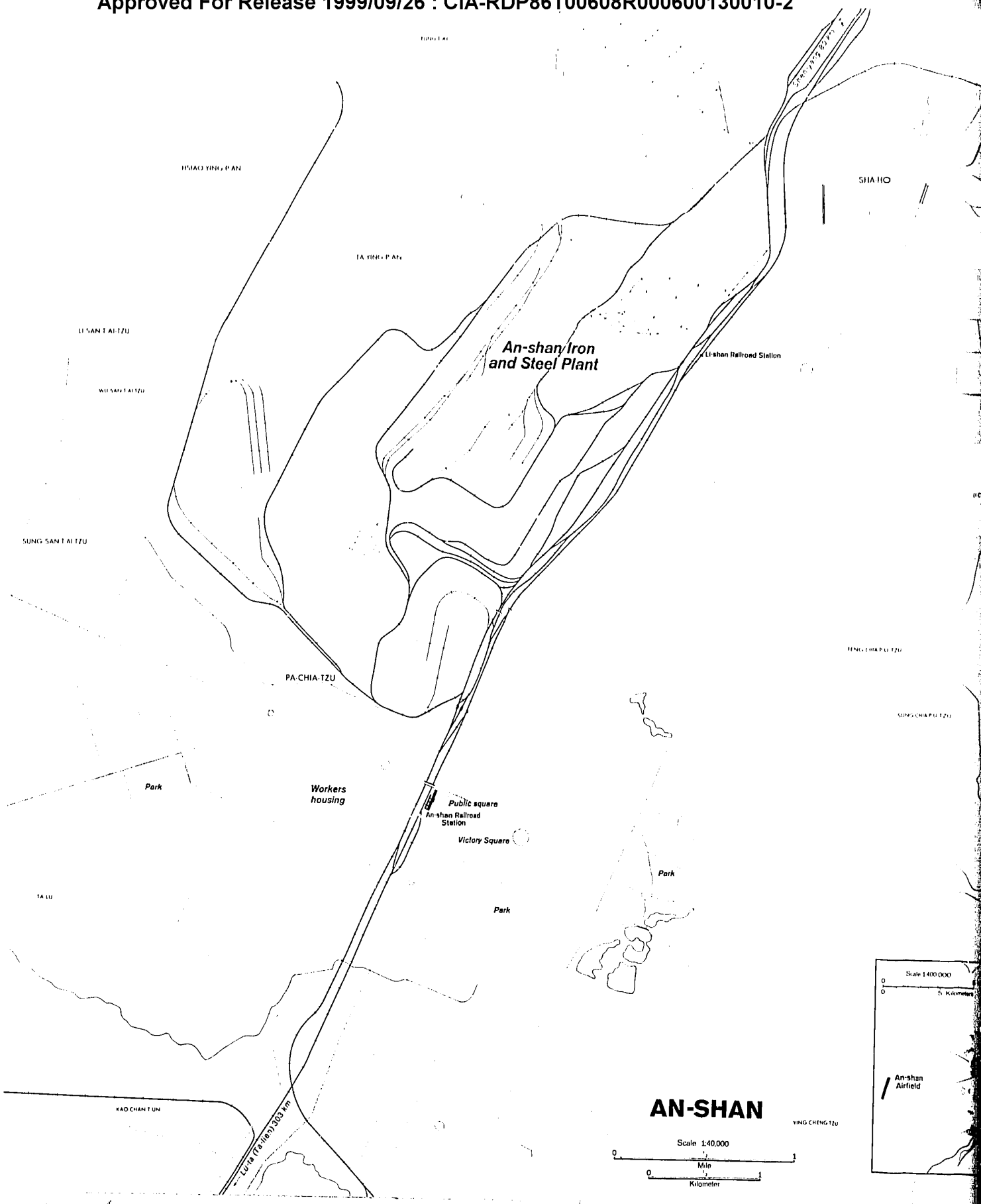
Restoration of the iron and steel plant and the mines began in 1948 and continued as one of the first priorities of the new Peoples Republic of China (PRC). Even with aid from the USSR and a crew of detained Japanese technicians, it was several years before iron and steel were back in production, but the city grew rapidly after 1953 because the PRC's industrial expansion was heavily dependent on the output of the An-shan plant. The city was designated to serve as the national center for training steel

and metallurgical workers -- who were to restore, build, and operate plants in other areas of China. During the 1950s existing housing was repaired, and new multistory apartments, the most expensive in China, were constructed for the workers and their families. Little new capacity has been added to the steel mill in recent years, but in the decade following restoration (1955-65) the number of open-hearth furnaces was doubled and one blast furnace was added. The town now covers about twice the area that it did under the Japanese, but it has not changed much since 1960.

An-Shan Today

An-shan still is dominated by the iron mines, ore-dressing and sintering plants, coke ovens, by-products plants, blast furnaces, open-hearth shops, and rolling mills of the iron and steel complex. South of the plant are extensive workers housing developments interspersed with areas of older detached housing, machine shops, and storage areas. The principal governmental, institutional, and commercial sections of the city and additional residential areas are located east of the railroad. A sizable number of government buildings, schools, stores, and houses reputedly are heated by hot water circulated from the iron and steel plant through a 30-mile pipe system. Interspersed among fields of vegetables in the outskirts of the city is a variety of industries producing agricultural machinery, construction materials, chemicals, and consumer goods; most of these are small and directly related to the iron and steel industry and its workers.

An-shan is a grimy, sober town with few recreational or cultural attractions for the visitor, although several parks, a sports stadium, schools, technical institutes, and libraries are scattered throughout the city. About 6 miles southeast of An-shan, at T'ang-kang-tzu, is a pleasant park with a hot spring as the focal point. Here is located the T'ang-kang-tzu Hot Springs Sanatorium, one of the largest in China, where thousands from all over the country journey each year for medical treatment and convalescence. Also in the park are houses of historical interest including one built by the former Manchurian warlord, Chang Tso-lin, who was the military governor of Shen-yang from 1911 until he was assassinated in 1928. The most interesting is the house of the late Henry Pu-yi (P'u-i), the last Chinese emperor of the Ch'ing Dynasty and successor of the Empress Dowager, who later became the Emperor K'ang-te of Manchukuo under the Japanese.



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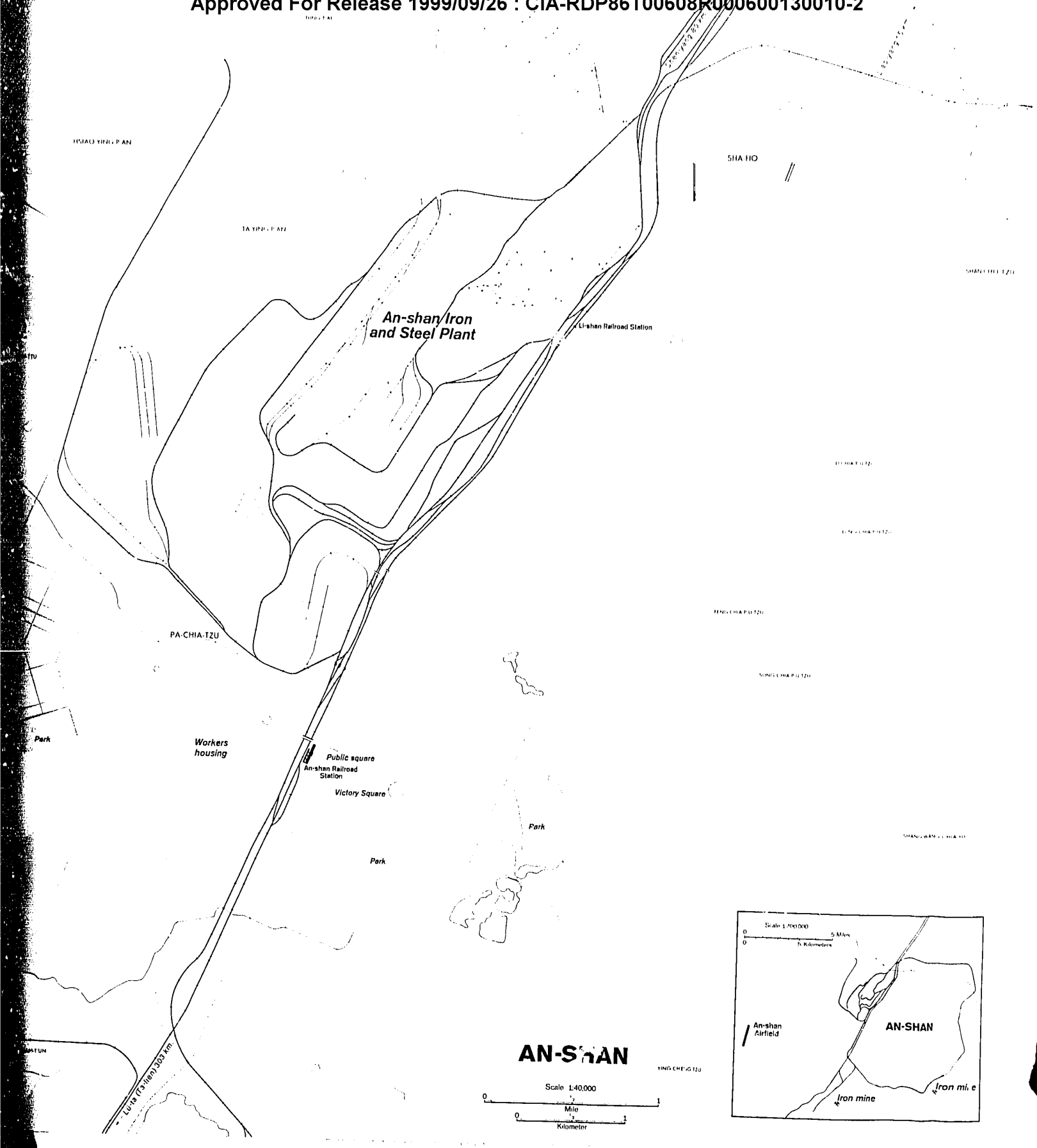

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